

GOSPEL OF JOHN

A - *Unity*.

AUTHORSHIP and HISTORICITY

of the

FOURTH GOSPEL.

B - AUTHORSHIP of FOURTH GOSPEL.

Introd: The question, occasion, importance.

I. External Evidence.

1. Against Joh. authorship.

- (1) No reference to author before 170. (*Iatian*)
- (2) No reference to book before 150.
- (3) The Alogi, 170. (4) Justin Martyr, 150.
- (5) Silence, 170-200.

2. For Joh. authorship.

- (1) Group of writers, 170-200.
- (2) Justin Martyr, 150. (3) Apostolic Fathers: Ignatius.
- (4) Argument fr. silence: weakness.

3. Conclusions.

- (1) Certainty that could have been by J.
- (2) Highly probable that was.
- (3) Relative value of external evidence.

II. Internal Evidence.

- 1. Was author a Jew?
- 2. A native of Palestine?
- 3. An eye-witness?
- 4. An immediate disciple?
- 5. The Apostle John?

C - HISTORICITY of FOURTH GOSPEL.

I. Importance of Questions.

If contents not historically trustworthy:

- 1. Christology not Jes. Persl. testmy. (Bacon)
- 2. Worth only in ideas. (Schmedel)
- 3. These by an unknown interpreter. (Scott)
- 4. Only what church thot of Jesus. (Wernle)
- 5. As to Rationalists and Unitarians. (Barth)
- 6. Fundamental theses a human invention. (Sanday)

II. Fourth Gospel and Synoptic Gospels.

Most important for historicity to study differences.

1. Duration of ministry.
2. Scene of ministry.
3. Day of Christ's death.
4. John Baptist.
5. Remarkable omissions.
6. Miracles.
7. The Teaching.
8. Portrait of our Lord.
9. The Messiah.

III. Conclusions as to Historicity.

1. Radical View: e.g. Schmiedel, Wernle, Julicher, Lohsy, Scott.

- (1) Diffres. irreconcilable.
- (2) Synoptic narrative preferred.
- (3) Fourth not a record of actual history.

2. Mediating Views.

- (1) Joh. authshp. but lower histrel. val. than Synoptics. (Drummond)
- (2) By disciple of John and histrel. in substance, but large ideal element. (Harnack).
- (3) Origl. authentic document worked over, partly trustworthy and partly not. (Wendt, Bacon)

3. Conservative View: e.g. Barth, Zahn, Stanton, Sanday.

- (1) Accuracy in details.
- (2) Reason for differing fr. Synops.
- (3) Diffres. argue good credentials.
- (4) Synops. to be corrected fr. John.
- (5) Alleged lack of development.
- (6) The discourses.
- (7) The miracles.
- (8) Logos-idea.
- (9) Personality of John.
- (10) Not a biography, but a Gospel.

Conclusion: Case vs. traditl. view as yet not proven!